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July 7, 2004

Application Serial Number: 10/705,342  
Filed: November 10, 2003  
Inventor: Minges  
Group Art Unit: 3617  
Examiner: Jules, Frantz  
Attorney Docket Number:

**Via Express Mail No. EV387961890US**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

X under 37 CFR 1.97(b), being before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits

\_\_\_\_\_ under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:  
Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or  
a \$240.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or  
(After the CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

\_\_\_\_\_ under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with a:  
Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and  
a petition under 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2)(ii), and  
a \$130.00 petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1).  
(Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee)

X Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449-Information Disclosure Statement for which there may or may not be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

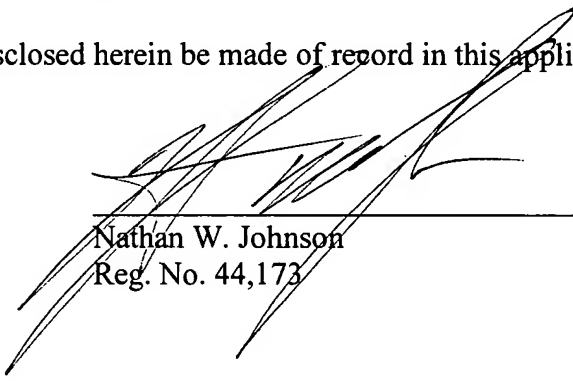
The filing of the IDS is not representation that the undersigned possesses any personal knowledge of the contents of each prior art reference listed, or that the documents are citable as prior art. If the Applicant has indicated specific locations of possible interest in

the right-most column, such indication is for the convenience of the examiner and is NOT to be seen as a representation that these are the only or most relevant areas, or as an admission of relevance. References with no locations designated may be more relevant or less relevant than those with such locations identified.

Applicant submits a copy of the Bocker (EP0317782) reference's Abstract as provided in English on the Esp@cenet public access site. This reference was originally provided by the PTO to Applicant without translation.

Applicant by submitting the above references taken alone or in combination neither represents nor admits that such references anticipate or render obvious the present invention. Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested. Applicant accordingly reserves the right to challenge any reference to the submitted and identified documents as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.



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OF COUNSEL

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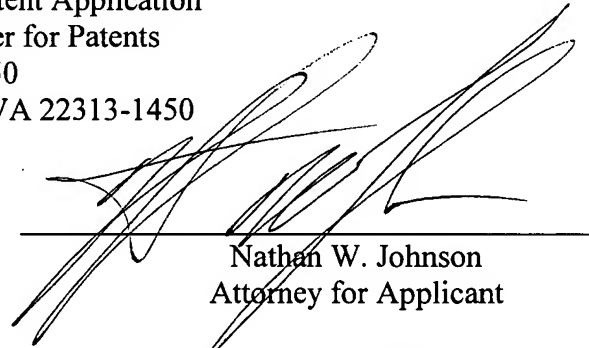


**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this letter (3 pages) and an Information Disclosure Statement (1 page), Böcker reference (11 pages), and English abstract of Böcker reference (1 page) are enclosed and are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV387961890US Post Office to Addressee, in an envelope addressed to:

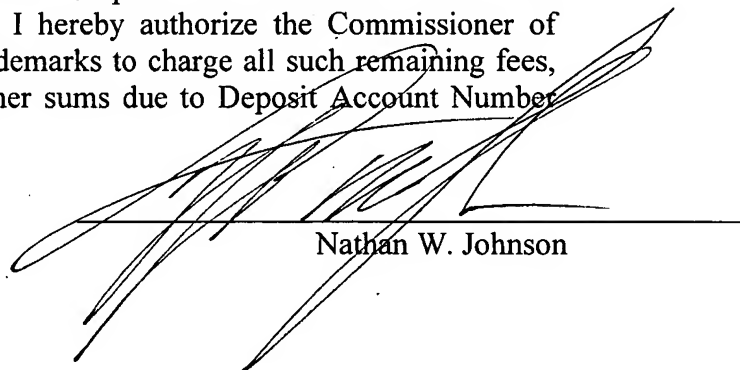
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P.O. Box 1450  
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on July 7, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan W. Johnson  
Attorney for Applicant  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
July 7, 2004  
Date of signature

**AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE  
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If, after processing the enclosed items, any charges, fees, or sums due remain unpaid in connection with this correspondence, I hereby authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge all such remaining fees, charges, and other sums due to Deposit Account Number 50-0954.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan W. Johnson



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/705,342
Filing Date	November 10, 2003
First Named Inventor	Marcus Minges
Art Unit	3617
Examiner Name	Jules, Frantz
Attorney Docket Number	M2341/53410/NWJ

Sheet 1 of 2

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 0,620,801	03/07/1899	Pratt	
		US- 1,101,910	06/30/1914	Elmqvist	
		US- 2,528,265	10/31/1950	Cretors	
		US- 3,168,937	2/09/1965	Redford	
		US- 3,176,628	04/06/1965	Reid	
		US- 3,533,357	10/13/1970	Brandon	
		US- 3,774,548	11/27/1973	Borst	
		US- 3,891,062	06/24/1975	Geneste	
		US- 3,935,822	02/03/1976	Kaufmann	
		US- 4,015,537	04/05/1977	Graef et al.	
		US- 4,026,388	05/31/1977	Creissels	
		US- 4,278,165	07/14/1981	Nielsen	
		US- 4,550,806	11/05/1985	Bocker	
		US- 4,602,567	07/29/1986	Headstrom	
		US- 4,627,517	12/09/1986	Bor	
		US- 4,821,845	04/18/1989	DeViaris	
		US- 4,961,385	10/09/1990	Abouzakhm	
		US- 5,069,141	12/03/1991	Ohara et al.	
		US- 5,231,933	08/03/1993	DiRosa	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		EP 0317782	10-27-1989	Bocker		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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						<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner  
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**Complete if Known**

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Sheet	2	of	2
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[illegible][illegible]

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Signature**

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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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